

I. DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL	
A. COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	B. CHAPTER 14.3
C. ARTICLE 2	D. ROOF, RIB AND FACE CONTROL
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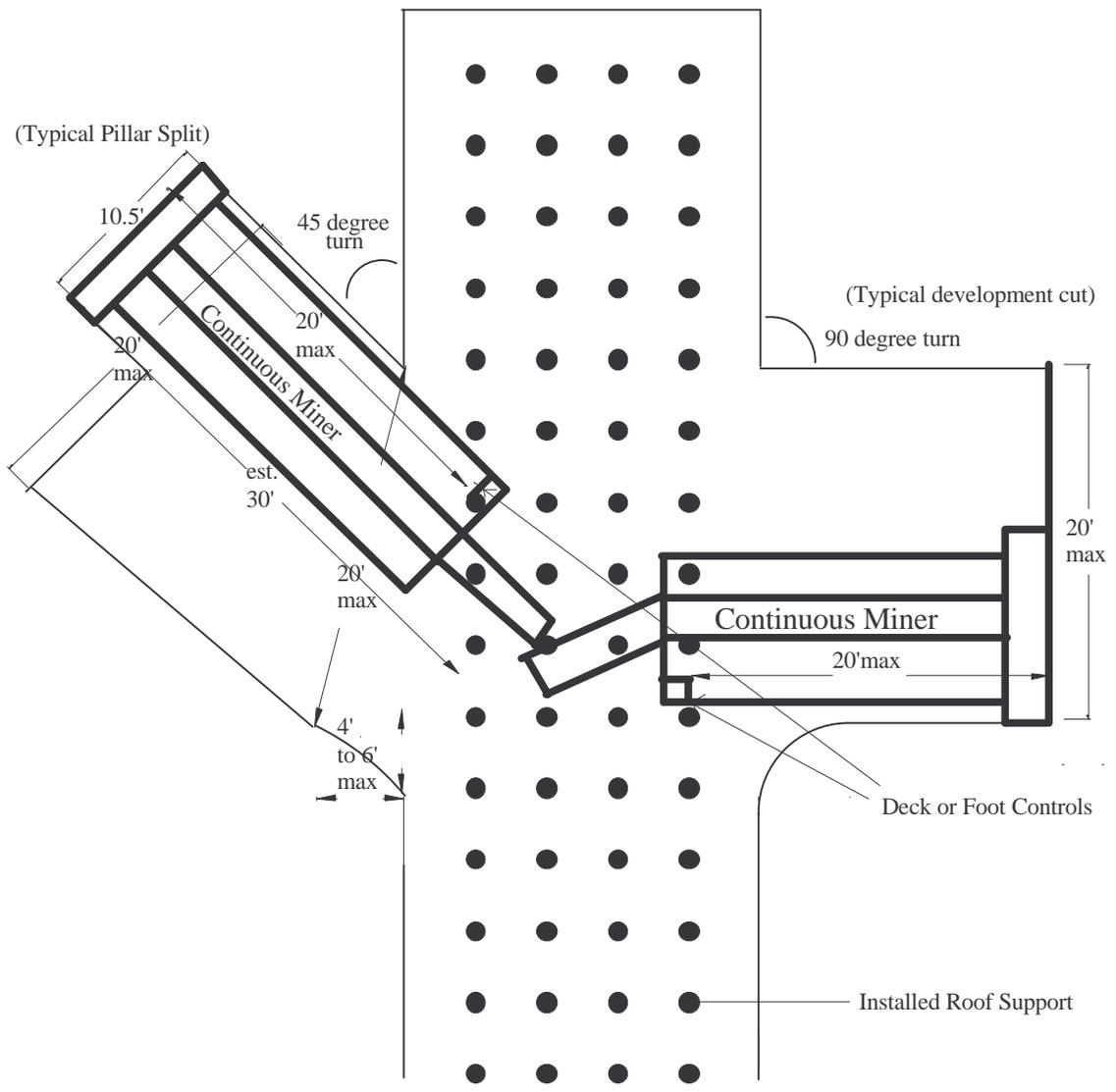
Roof Control Plans

Approved roof control plans require that the maximum allowable cut depth, when the continuous mining machine is operated from the deck be 20 feet, or the distance as measured from the most inby manually operated control (hand or foot) to the inby end of the continuous mining machine, whichever is less. In approval of the mining of “deep cuts”, provisions will be provided, either through a conspicuous reference mark on the continuous mining machine or through some other means, to indicate when maximum cut depth is attained.

The following guidance is provided for inspectors when measuring cut depths in crosscuts and pillar splits:

Crosscuts turned at 90 degrees should be measured perpendicular to the entry from the last row of bolts to the deepest point of penetration. Crosscuts turned at 45 and 60 degrees (or other angles less than 90 degrees) should be measured in the direction of mining from the last row of permanent supports to the deepest point of penetration. The deck, or conspicuous mark, must remain under supported roof at all times, even when the continuous mining machine is set over for the next run or lift. However, it should be understood that the measurement should be taken from the point from which the operator of the machine has identified his position from the machine’s controls or reference mark identifying the maximum cut depth allowed.

An illustration is provided on the following sketch to depict conditions that may be evaluated during the mining of a 45-degree left partial pillar split and a 90-degree right crosscut entry during development.



(Typical Pillar Split)

10.5'

45 degree turn

20' max

Continuous Miner

est. 30'

20' max

4' to 6' max

(Typical development cut)

90 degree turn

20' max

Continuous Miner

20' max

Deck or Foot Controls

Installed Roof Support

45.1-161.109.A.

Roof, Rib and Face Control

When evaluating permanent roof support spacing to determine compliance with an approved roof control plan, inspectors should measure the lengthwise and crosswise distances between roof bolts.

To assist in accurately measuring the proper spacing of installed permanent roof support, approved roof control plans state: "Roof bolts shall be installed in a reasonably straight line crosswise to obtain optimum protection from the ATRS and previously installed roof bolts, unless otherwise specified in this plan."

Roof bolt spacing specified in a plan represents nominal dimensions and reasonable tolerances for installation are permitted. To require roof bolt operators to reach in by and make exact measurements may introduce unnecessary hazards. Therefore, an occasional inadvertent deviation that slightly increases the required spacing of roof bolts (not to exceed 6"), but does not detrimentally affect support performance may not constitute a violation of the approved roof control plan. DM personnel should apply judgment and consideration of overall roof conditions and roof support installation in determining whether enforcement action is appropriate related to roof bolt spacing.